

Remarks

Applicants have carefully considered the Office Action dated May 23, 2005 and the references cited therein. Applicants respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of the application.

Claims 1-20 are currently pending.

Claims 8, 9 and 17 are allowed.

Claim 18 has been canceled by this amendment, without prejudice.

Claim 17 has been amended to provide antecedent basis for all terms contained therein (claim 17, line 5). Applicants have voluntarily amended this claim. Such amendment has not been made to distinguish over any reference of record. No narrowing of any corresponding equivalents to which this claim is entitled is intended by this amendment.

Applicants and their Attorney acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable as set forth in the objections to claims 19-20. Claims 19-20 have been rewritten in independent form, as suggested by the Examiner. Method claim 19 has been amended to include all limitations of original claim 18 in addition to now reciting "storing the shadow documents in memory and maintaining data identifying a plurality of shadow documents and any references to any parent and child documents thereof." (claim 19, lines 12-14). Accordingly, claim 19 is believed allowable over any art of record, whether considered singularly or in combinations, for the same reasons as claim 18, as well as for the merits of its own respective limitations. Similarly, method claim 20 has been amended to include all limitations of original claim 18 in addition to reciting "presenting graphical representations of a plurality of documents in a manner which indicates relationships among the documents" (claim 20, lines 13-14). Accordingly, claim 20 is also believed allowable over any art of record, whether considered singularly or in combinations, for the same reasons as claim 18, as well as for the merits of its own respective limitations. Claim 18 has been canceled, without prejudice.

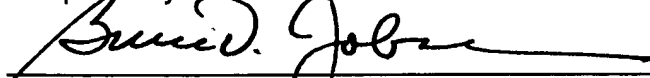
Regarding the remainder of the claims, applicants request that the examiner consider the arguments set forth herein. Claims 10 and 12 have been amended to include limitations similar to claim 8 and now each recite "wherein a shadow document for an electronic mail message further comprises a reference to one of the original

content and original attachments of the electronic mail message" (claim 10, lines 10-12; claim 12, lines 8-10). Accordingly, claims 10 and 12 are likewise believed in allowable condition for the same reasons as claim 8, as well as for the merits of their own respective limitations. Claims 13-16 include all the limitations of claim 12 are likewise believed in allowable for the same reasons as claim 12, as well as for the merits of their own respective limitations. Claim 11 has been amended to include limitations similar to claim 9 and now recites "wherein the shadow document is created upon the receipt of a request to delete the original document by the communication process" (claim 11, lines 10-12). Accordingly, claim 11 is likewise believed in allowable condition for the same reasons as claim 9, as well as for the merits of its own respective limitations.

Applicants respectfully reassert all of the arguments and traversals set forth in prior responses to the extent still relevant to the outstanding rejections, especially those regarding claim 1. Applicants respectfully traverse the use of Official Notice as grounds for rejection of claims 6-7 and 18, and, in accordance with The Manual of Patent Examining Procedure section 2144.03, requests the Examiner to produce a reference in support of his assertion, or, alternatively, if such assertion is based on the personal knowledge of the Examiner, to provide Applicants with an affidavit averring to the specific facts supporting the personal knowledge on which the Examiner's statement is based. In taking a Official Notice, the examiner has not established that the claimed limitation(s) were disclosed in the alleged electronic-mail systems, such as Microsoft Outlook, as of the filing date of the invention.

Applicants believe the claims are in allowable condition. A notice of allowance for this application is solicited earnestly. If the Examiner has any further questions regarding this amendment, he/she is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the number listed below. The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any balances under 37 CFR §1.17, and 1.16 to Deposit Account No. DA-12-2158.

Respectfully submitted



Date: _____

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